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The Friday Newsletter



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News Briefs

LAB TO BE TRANSFERRED TO STATE:

As a result of budget reductions and high operating expenses, the Forest Service research unit at Bottineau, North Dakota, has been closed. The unit, Forestry Practices for Improving Environments of the North and Central Great Plains, was housed in two buildings constructed on land leased from the University of North Dakota. In response to requests from state officials, the Forest Service has received permission to donate the buildings to the State of North Dakota. The official transfer of the facility to the State will take place in the near future.

Legislation

APPROPRIATIONS BILL SIGNED: The 1982 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act was signed by President Reagan on Thursday, December 30. (See FNL No. 52 for details on major items.)

The Act continues, with some minor changes, the previous prohibition on spending funds to process or issue leases or permits for mineral activities in wilderness areas. The prohibition applies to all components of the wilderness system, including RARE II recommended wilderness and further planning areas, and Congressionally designated study areas.

The restrictions do not apply to valid existing rights or leases issued prior to October 1, 1982. Also exempted from the restrictions are study areas specified in the Colorado and New Mexico Wilderness Acts, the Clear Creek Special Mining Zone in Idaho, BLM wilderness study areas, and lands in Alaska. The Act also provides for issuing permits for prospecting, seismic surveys, and core sampling as long as they are done in a non-disturbing manner and without ex-

plosives. Mineral surveys required by the Wilderness Act can continue and provision was also made for issuing leases in wilderness located adjacent to producing fields, but no surface occupancy is permitted.

The Act for 1983 also continues the previously imposed restrictions on the use of funds for the sale of federal land. In addition, the Act stipulates that sales can be made only after the tract has been studied and a public review is conducted. Appropriate Congressional delegations and committees must also receive notice of sales 30 days before they take place.

Volunteer Corner

VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE FAIR RETURN:

Often we place such an emphasis on the fine contributions volunteers make to Forest Service programs that we forget about what the volunteers receive as compensation for their efforts. Obviously, the pay is not what attracts people to the volunteer program. What then does motivate someone to give so much time and effort when no monetary reward is involved? A recent letter from a volunteer who worked on the Cordova RD of the Chugach National Forest in R-10 explains one reason for volunteering. The letter reads in part:

"In February, 1982, I was a fisheries student at Humboldt State University in California. Without field experience, I found it hard to find temporary employment for the spring and summer seasons. Not sure whether or not to volunteer, I took the (volunteer) job announcement to a fisheries professor. He said if I could do what was written, take the job. Having gained valuable experience in stream and lake survey methods, fisheries science, and enhancement techniques, I can go back to school with a better understanding of what is being taught.

For myself, the Forest Service Volunteer Program was very beneficial and well organized."

I think this volunteer would readily agree that the experience he gained was fair compensation for his efforts. It's good to remember that the Volunteer Program is a two-way street and that the reward for participation is not a paycheck. In many cases it can be something much more valuable.

New Releases

*The following publication was recently issued by the Washington Office and is available from Regional Offices, Stations, and Area Offices.

The Forest Service Timber Appraisal System A Historical Perspective, 1891-1981

This 150-page report written by Alfred A. Weiner, former chief timber appraiser in the W.O., covers development of the appraisal system from the earliest days of the forest reserves under the General Land Office to the present time. To provide illustrations of trends and changes, some significant sawtimber and pulpwood sales are described. Reappraisals and various external and internal investigations, audits, reviews and special studies conducted over the years are reviewed, as well as wartime price controls, damage and settlement appraisals, land exchanges, sustained yield units, and other special situations. A comparison of the Forest Service appraisal system and the system used by BLM and the British Columbia Forest Service is also included. The report is supplemented by 55 tables.



Chief